

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 877.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1915.

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COALITION CABINET PUDDING



HEAD-COOK ASQUITH: "Drat the pudding! It's fallen to pieces again, after all the trouble I took to mix it carefully!"

KITCHENMAID EDWARD GREY: "I wonder if it's because you forgot the heggs?"

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street, London, W.

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom; to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it; to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper

THE OUTLOOK

Not for the first time in the history of our land, a Coalition Cabinet has been formed to carry on the government of the country during the war. Its composition is as follows:—

Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith; Minister of Munitions, Mr. Lloyd George; Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey; War Secretary, Lord Kitchener; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. McKenna; Home Secretary, Sir J. Simon; First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. Balfour; Chief Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Birrell; Secretary for Scotland, Mr. McKinnon Wood; Colonial Secretary, Mr. Bonar Law; Secretary for India, Mr. Austen Chamberlain; President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Runciman; President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Long; President of the Board of Agriculture, Lord Selborne; President of the Board of Education, Mr. Henderson; Lord Chancellor, Sir S. Buckmaster; Attorney-General, Sir E. Carson.

Other appointments are: Lord Lansdowne, without portfolio; Mr. Churchill, Duchy of Lancaster; First Commissioner of Works, Mr. Harcourt; Lord Curzon, Privy Seal; Lord Crewe, President of the Council.

Our Gains and Losses

With the so-called "national" aspect of the new Government we deal in our leading article. As regards its personnel from the Suffragist point of view, Mr. Balfour, Lord Selborne, and Mr. Bonar Law, among the new Unionist members, are Suffragists (Lord Selborne's Suffrage Bill in the House of Lords last year will be remembered by our readers); Sir Edward Carson, who promised votes to the women of Ulster, is doubtful; while Lord Lansdowne, Lord Curzon, and Mr. Chamberlain are Anti-Suffragists. Mr. Henderson, the Labour member of the new Cabinet, is a professed Suffragist, and replaces an Anti-Suffragist in Mr. Pease. Among those who have left the Cabinet Lord Haldane, Lord Emmott, and Mr. E. S. Montagu were all Suffragists, while Mr. Herbert Samuel was an Anti-Suffragist, and so was Mr. Hobhouse, whose name as Postmaster-General is not included in the new Cabinet as announced as we go to press. Those of our Colonies where women vote will not be sorry to have Mr. Bonar Law as Colonial Secretary in place of Mr. Harcourt, a determined "Anti," and all Suffragists will rejoice at the departure of Mr. McKenna from the Home Office.

Women's New Industries

There was no great rush of women to register for "war service" when first they were invited to apply to the Labour Exchanges. But none the less, the number of women registered came to 65,700 at the middle of this month, and the increase is now about 5,000 a week. They register for clerical and agricultural work, tailoring, gardening, and motor driving; armament making is still one of the most popular applications, and lately over 100 women have asked to clean the big transports and other ships. Railways and tubes are employing more and more women for the issue and collection of tickets, and women tram-conductors are already being used or trained at Preston, Salford, and Brighton. As to work for highly educated women, a meeting of the Liverpool branch of

the Federation of University Women lately discussed the whole question. The possibilities of further progress in medical work, dentistry, and even veterinary practice were pointed out, but the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alfred Dale, observed that, though public opinion had altered considerably, still, so long as a State used only one-half of its citizens for social, economic, and public service, it was weak where it might be strong, and poor where it might be rich.

Progress or Controversy?

So much nonsense is talked about the suspension of all controversial discussion during the war—as though progress were ever uncontroversial!—that it is good to be able to record a step forward in the recently held London Diocesan Conference, presided over by the Bishop of London. The Bishop of Kensington having moved, and Prebendary Pennefather having seconded, a resolution to adopt the rules passed last July by the Representative Church Council, admitting women to the electorate of parochial church councils, the Ven. Brook Deedes, Archdeacon of Hampstead, spoke against the proposal as introducing the whole subject of

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

WILL HOLD A

PUBLIC MEETING

IN THE

KINGSWAY HALL

(Kingsway, London, W.C.),

On TUESDAY, JUNE 8, at 8 p.m.

TO DISCUSS

Human Problems Arising
out of The Present War.

"SPEAKERS:—

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE

MISS EVELYN SHARP

and others.

CHAIR: MR. GEORGE LANSBURY

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the position of women in the government of the Church, which was a controversial matter not to be advisably discussed during the war! Fortunately the majority of those present at the Conference agreed with Dr. Maud, who described this granting of votes to women as "a tardy act of justice," and the resolution was passed by 196 votes to 84. We wish our secular rulers would take a leaf out of the Bishop's book, and use this opportunity to settle the wider issue of women's political enfranchisement, war or no war, because it also would be "a tardy act of justice."

Women and Food

The Board of Trade has appealed to the public to restrict the consumption of meat with a view to economising supplies and keeping prices down. No housekeeper questions the need of keeping prices down now that beef has gone up almost double (44 per cent.) and mutton more than a quarter (28 per cent.). The reasons are the shortage of imports and the enormous demands made for the army abroad and at home. The soldier's meat ration is larger than the amount most working men think of

getting every day of the week, and excellent as the army supply usually is in this war, there is always a large amount of waste both in the supply and the cooking. If capable women could be employed in both departments, as the Liberal Women's Federation pointed out last week (see page 287), a good deal of food would be saved for the country. As to restricting the family consumption of meat, those doctors who so heartily applaud the Board of Trade's advice perhaps do not realise how small the consumption already is in working people's homes, and also how difficult a matter the proper cooking of a vegetarian diet is with a very limited supply of fuel.

What Every Suffragist Should Do

This is a time of political and human upheaval when all points of contact are to be cherished and all variations of opinion to be met with a wide tolerance. Suffragists, being made of the same human stuff as other men and women, differ furiously on most matters. But they all mean to get the vote for women; and any method of advancing the Suffrage cause during the war—and almost every Suffrage Society has chosen a different one—offers an opportunity for drawing people together on a common meeting ground. Such a meeting ground will be the Kingsway Hall next Tuesday week (see particulars on this page). Apart from the special interest of the promised speeches, and even of the chance afforded of welcoming Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on her first public appearance since her return from America, the very fact of a Suffrage rally at this time of strife and sadness should be welcomed by all to whom love of country means hope for the future as well as thought for the present. It is not enough to congratulate the U.S., as our readers do most kindly and most continuously, on keeping the 'Suffrage flag' flying in this way. They must rally to it as well, on June 8 at 8 p.m.—and they will greatly facilitate the organization by applying for tickets at once.

TREASURER'S NOTE

It is with mixed feelings of joy and sadness that one opens the letters that find their way into the VOTES FOR WOMEN Treasury every week. Many of them contain heart-breaking stories of financial ruin owing to the war, of a daily struggle to make both ends meet that must sap the energies and weary the spirit of those who have to make it. Yet the writers of such letters are often those who respond most generously to the Suffrage call, who out of their poverty contribute their mite to the fund for keeping the Flag flying. One woman, who has to feed five people and help to support a mother on 35s. a week, will promise to save her omnibus fares. Another whose income has been reduced since last August to £1 a week will send 1s. a month. Two old cobblers, brothers, will somehow manage to scrape together 5s. as a donation. Some who earn barely enough to keep body and soul together will do their "bit" by selling the paper. We know of two girls making brushes for the Army from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on five days a week, and from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and they go out on Saturday evening to sell VOTES FOR WOMEN!

Come Along and Do Your Bit too!

This is the sort of heroic self-sacrifice that should bring us all into line. We are not all lucky enough to have it in our power to contribute such splendid service to the cause as those men and women, instanced above, who give their all when they give their mite. But the richer among us can at least review what we have given to the VOTES FOR WOMEN Fund since the war broke out, and double it now, in view of what the poorest among us have done, and will always do, war or no war, as long as the Flag flies aloft.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in *VOTES FOR WOMEN* should be sent to The Editors, *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1915.

WHAT DOES "NATIONAL" MEAN?

In the course of a few days, a change, amounting almost to a Parliamentary revolution, has been wrought in the Government of our country. For the period of the war we are to have what is called a National Cabinet, composed of all the political parties in the State, whose task it will be, as the *Manchester Guardian* puts it, so to organise our armament and supply industries that, when

every man and woman who is able to render service has been assigned his or her task . . . we may begin to think we are doing our duty as a nation.

These are fine words. The conception of a Government, representing every section of the people whose fate is in its hands, whose services it has to mobilise, whose inspiration it has to seek, is a very fine conception. It is one, we venture to think, which need not have waited upon a world-wide calamity for its fulfilment; and if we have to thank the present war for the materialisation of a perfect democratic idea, that will be at least one good thing we can lay to the credit of a bankrupt civilisation.

But does the new National Cabinet mean all that? We do not propose here to discuss the personnel of the Coalition that has thus sprung into being. We ask merely, has this new Government any claim to be called national? We fancy our answer will be anticipated. If in time of peace we have insisted that no Government can be representative that excludes all women from a voice in its election, in war time our argument, far from losing any of its force, is strengthened tenfold. By calling to his aid members of other political parties besides his own, Mr. Asquith has not formed a National Cabinet; he has merely formed a non-party Cabinet. By playing that old game of giving more power to men he has given more masters to women, and has double-locked the door that shuts them out from the councils of men at a moment when the State is exercising more control than ever before over the lives of the

people. We do not suggest that Mr. Asquith has done this wrong to women deliberately; recent utterances of his have led us to believe that he is ready to acknowledge the status of women in the industrial world. But if he really wishes to stand at the head of a great National Cabinet he must also acknowledge the status of women in the political world; and the first step of the new Coalition should be to make itself responsible to women as well as to men by removing the sex disability in politics.

The logic of our contention is, of course, unanswerable. Its practicability is equally demonstrable. A scheme for ensuring votes to soldiers in the fighting line abroad is under consideration; a similar measure for enfranchising women who are always in the fighting line at home could be similarly dealt with. Or still another Defence of the Realm Act—there is apparently safety in numbers!—could be drafted, this time not to sweep away our ancient liberties but to extend them to women. But besides these arguments, which are already familiar to our readers, we have another and a more urgent reason for pressing the women's demand at such a moment as this. Women who have no voice in the making of war are yet as deeply involved in its consequences as men are. They have, therefore, the same right as men to insist that the country shall not be the weaker by one particle of the strength and the resource that lie waiting to be used. They have the right to say—If the help of women is vitally needed by the country at this critical moment, you have no right, calling yourself a National Government, to refuse to take the step which will make that help more effective than it can possibly be otherwise.

There are moments in a country's history when the nation is united by a common danger; there are greater moments when it is united by a common burden and a common suffering. At such a moment, it seems to us, the men and women of this country now find themselves, inspired by a mutual desire to lighten the burden for one another. Whatever we may think about war in general, on about this war in particular, we are all—those of us who think at all—aware that a grave crisis has been reached in our country's fortunes. We are all—those of us who think at all—filled with the spirit that drives some of us to die for our country, others to make it worth dying for. We are all, women as well as men, crying out to be used for our country's service, whatever interpretation we may put upon the kind of service we think it needs or we are prepared to give. And it is evident to all but the waster or the fool that if our country is to be saved—and from worse things than German guns, for there are wars more lasting than this European conflict, and foes more eternal than the political enemy of the moment—it will only be saved by the nationalisation of this desire for service that animates every true patriot. That is true nationalisation. That is our greatest asset, now and at all times.

A moribund prejudice is all that stands in the way of this real nationalisation of the country's resources, a prejudice that ties a woman's hands behind her back while the country is calling to her for help, a prejudice so damning to the future of any State that many of the finest women of the present day, their eye on that greater future, have chosen to go on fighting for the freedom of their hands rather than attempt to shoulder another burden, fettered as they are. The State, in refusing to unbind their hands, loses far more than their help in shouldering its burdens. It loses the goodwill of women; it loses the reserve force that has lain accumulating all down the ages; it loses that passionate spirit of service that lies rotting unused or is eating away the hearts of women at a moment when it might be the greatest inspiration this country has ever known.

SWEATING (WOMEN) AS USUAL!

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—It seems to me that almost the whole world of men has gone cruelly, blood-thirstily mad, and that almost all women are too busy trying to patch up the injured men again to have time to see what is happening to women. I am a looker-on, preoccupied with my own sex, and I see a great deal that no one else seems to notice. I also hear a good deal which I know to be untrue and misleading. For example, some one says "Business as usual"; someone else, "There is even less unemployment" than usual; and some one else again, "All sections of society have united to mitigate as far as possible the suffering that is bound to arise." My ears ache with their cackle. Business is *not* as usual. Unemployment among women is terribly— "Ah, but—" Yes, I know. When they say "There is even less unemployment than usual," they do not refer to women. Exactly. *Hinc illa lacrima*. No one *does* refer to women, and I am going to tell you about it.

"Business as Usual"—or Sweating?

They say men protect women. Let me give you a few instances as to how this really works in a capitalistic society, where women are politically helpless. The trade I know best is clerking. I am independent, and have therefore been able to play "hell and tommy" with some of these women-sweating employers during the last twelve months. I am proud to say that if all women clerks could or would behave as I have behaved, business "as usual" would either come to a standstill or the sweating of women clerks would appreciably decrease. You could pay your money and take your choice.

I was in the North when the war broke out, so, rumours reaching me, I imitated Olive Christian Malvery, donned my shabbiest clothes, and "got inside." I found a determination on the part of employers, so universal as to be amazing, to recoup themselves for any war expenses to which they might be put by reducing the wages and conditions of their women employees. I also found a widespread endeavour to increase profit by cutting down women employees, even where there were no special war expenses to be met, and by very unfair treatment even where increased profits were being made. Male employers know, of course, that women clerical workers are unorganised, and, so far from "protecting" them, appear determined to exploit them to the utmost by forcing the main financial burdens of the war on to their shoulders. I will give instances explaining how this is being done.

"The Crew and the Cook" for 25s.

I answered every advertisement that appeared. My plan was to send in three letters, giving a different name and address in each, a different "salary required," but practically the same accomplishments. Eighteen letters to six advertisements, six asking a good salary, six a moderate recompense, and six a miserably inadequate, non-living wage of 15s. weekly, produced, in reply to the last, six invitations to call, and to the first twelve, nothing. I paid six visits, and was offered six positions. In answer to the first four, I stated that though I had only asked 15s. in my letter, I could not think of accepting *their* work at that price, but for *them* would require 25s. to 30s. I thought one old man would have thrown me down the steps. The fifth was a Jew. This was the only one who received me with courtesy, and he inquired why I had asked so low a sum. I told

him the truth, and remonstrated with him for paying a non-living wage to any woman. He blushed, and we shook hands and parted friends. In the sixth position (somewhat to my consternation) I was engaged at 25s. weekly. However, as they were engaging an "office girl" at the same time, they revenged themselves on the wretched child (an orphan) by baiting her down from 7s. 6d. to 7s. weekly. I may explain that I was engaged as book-keeper, shorthand-typist, manager of the general office, and the crew and the cook of the "Nancy Brigg" generally.

A Demand for Equal Pay

I spent my first day "inside" examining "the books." I discovered that in the preceding twelve months they had had four male clerks. One would have done better to have signed the pledge. Their wages were 30s. to 35s. This gave me the handle I wanted, and at the end of the first week I informed "the firm" that I did not approve of paying women less than men, and they must, therefore, pay me 35s. or I would not remain. As I had unfortunately pleased them by proving myself the most competent clerk they had ever had, the row was tremendous. I pointed out that, owing to lack

tions at all." Three accomplished the sums set perfectly. The former was elected!

The male clerks already in the offices appear to be very jealous of the women new-comers, and very anxious to keep all the interesting and wage-commanding work to themselves.

In the Approved Societies, including London, women-sweating has reached a fine art. A limit is fixed for certain work, and more will not be given to anyone, however skilled or competent. "Skilled and experienced" women book-keepers are limited to £1 per week; shorthand-typists are paid from 10s. 6d. upwards, 12s. 6d. is quite common, and they are often forced to work long after hours without payment. One Approved Society engaged two women book-keepers, who commenced work at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. On Saturday they were paid for half a week. As, however, they had only lost 2½ days out of the working week of six days, they should have been paid 3½ days instead of three days only. The women were too poor and too timid to protest, but they knew they were being cheated. No trick is too "low-down" or mean to play off on women.

A rich company in the West End, with large Government contracts, reduced the wages of its women clerks "because of the war," and then made them work all day on Sunday on Government contracts without a penny overtime. They were told, however, they "might eventually" get a bonus—contingent, I suppose, on "dividends as usual" first.

A big manufacturing firm advertised for a woman clerk to take shorthand dictation in English, French, and German, and to write (as the interviewer put it), "*tadelllos* French literature," but refused to pay 35s. weekly, considering 30s. "enough for any woman."

The policy of 3d. per hour, with a maximum of 10s. per week, for women workers, initiated by Miss Mary Macarthur, is, I think, already having a disastrous effect. When I remonstrated with one person—to some extent responsible for this arrangement—I was told "it *had* to be so" because the lowest women wage-earners of London received only 5s. to 7s. weekly, and "it would not do" to fix any sum for any woman above their weekly average. Inquiring what women, other than casual workers, were paid at these rates, I was told "the bottle-washers of London"! It seems, therefore, that the average earned by the unskilled women bottle-washers is to be allowed to govern rates for trained and skilled women in other professions. How proud the women bottle-washers would be if they knew! They might even be moved to demand one penny a day more; but I doubt if they would get it.

Root Cause of Women's "Inferiority"

There is no reason at all for this state of things. I do not find that men are being so treated. Many employers are totally unaffected by the war, except in so far as the increased cost of living affects us all, and this applies equally to the women employees. It means that an increase in living of 20 per cent. for a man equals an increase, added to her reduced wages, of some 55 per cent. in the case of a woman. No man will help us. We have got to help ourselves. What can we do about it? If only the women had the courage to stand firm and refuse to have their wages cut down, they would, of course, win. It is very necessary to educate women in citizenship, and to remove the continued suggestion of inferiority implied by the withholding of the franchise. If men's work is really superior, they have no need to regard the possibility of even-handed justice as between women and men, with such hate and fear; only inferiority need stoop to that. But the truth is that even now, in this hour of national crisis, men are struggling to retain Protection for men against women. I could give you further instances, collected since the above was written, but I believe every observant woman will be able to add to them for herself.—Yours, &c.,

Woman Worker.

COME TO THE MASS MEETING

IN THE

KINGSWAY HALL

(Kingsway, W.C.).

TUESDAY, JUNE 8,

at 8 p.m.

CHAIR: MR. GEORGE LANSBURY.

(For particulars, see page 283.)

of competition, their business was booming; they were busier than they had ever previously been, and they had no excuse for paying a woman clerk less than they had paid to former men clerks in less prosperous times. I left the following Saturday, and "the firm" felt it so deeply that it rolled helplessly drunk across the room as I bade farewell. In order to ram the lesson well home, I had behaved like an angel the whole of the week under notice, and though "the firm" would not "on principle" pay a woman fairly, it felt my desertion deeply.

I then turned my attention to the Corporations, Insurance Committees, and Approved Societies, and watched and answered their advertisements. I found their methods simple. They seem in most cases to allow men employees who enlist a proportion of their pay, and they advertise for "competent and experienced women clerks" to do all the men's work for the remaining portion. The men's allowances are thus paid out of the women's wages. In most cases they also stipulate that the women's engagements must be regarded as strictly temporary, terminable at any time.

In the Insurance Committees the top price for a woman clerk seems to be £1 1s. (I am not now speaking of London), and, I am inclined to think, a protégée is pretty sure of election, whether competent or not. One committee advertised for a woman clerk, "*must be good at fractions*." Five women attended for examination. One boldly and openly stated at the examination table that she "could not do frac-

NEW BOOKS

SOME PAMPHLETS

"The Fruit of the Tree" *

In this little pamphlet Mrs. Flora Annie Steel discusses the meaning of the "Curse of Eve," and, on the hypothesis that woman's subjection to man was brought about by her loss of "sexual reticence," given up in order to retain her monopoly of the man, argues that women will never regain their independence until they realise how they lost it. She concludes by saying:—

There is a call to battle in the air, but it is the call for the material to put on the immaterial, to the mortal to put on immortality; to the whole world of sex to take one step forward and upward in the path of evolution.

The argument is interesting and well worked out, but we do not feel that it covers the whole field of women's fight for independence. There are a good many more forces at work behind the subjection of woman than the merely physical one, even than the spiritual forces involved in that physical one.

A Practical Handbook †

In a useful and practical manner Professor H. Maxwell-Lefroy, M.A., F.Z.S. (who acknowledges in a short preface his indebtedness to Dr. Harriette Chick, of the Lister Institute, for her help) has prepared an admirable little treatise in his "Measures for Avoidance and Extermination of Flies, Mosquitoes, Lice, and Other Vermin." Its primary object is naturally at this crisis to be of use to those who are fighting abroad, in the trenches or the hospitals, against insect pests; but the valuable directions contained in it will be found of real help to any householder troubled by plagues of flies or still

* "The Fruit of the Tree." By Flora Annie Steel. (London: Women's Printing Society, Brick Street, W. Price 4d.)

† "Measures for Avoidance and Extermination of Flies, Mosquitoes, Lice and other Vermin." By H. Maxwell-Lefroy, M.A., F.Z.S.

worse vermin. Besides general directions for their avoidance, the writer gives instructions for preparing insecticides and fly papers, and for the construction of fly traps. Excellent little drawings are supplied by Miss Rhodes. Only a limited number of copies of the pamphlet has been printed, and it may be obtained from Miss E. Chick, Chestergate, Ealing, W.

Saving the Babies *

In two admirable pamphlets Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky makes an eloquent, as well as a practical, appeal for a crusade against the forces that murder 100,000 babies, under the age of one year, out of the 800,000 that are born every year in this country, and asks:

Shall it always be true that "England takes care of her things and throws away her people?"

The writer feels that the first step is to render the Notification of Births Act compulsory, instead of, as at present, permissive (a step that Mr. Herbert Samuel said in the House on May 18 was under consideration). She pleads for the better care of mothers, and especially for the care of those girl-mothers whose babies are illegitimate in the eyes of the law. For the mortality among illegitimate babies, according to the last Report of the Registrar-General, is about twice as high as among legitimate babies. In "Preventive Medicine as a Career for Women," Dr. Tchaykovsky makes a further appeal to women to qualify as doctors and to take up this important branch of State service, and so to help in creating a "health conscience" and bringing it to bear on the homes of the nation.

"The Great Adventure" †

Miss Maude Royden's great adventure is

* "Save the Babies," and "Preventive Medicine as a Career for Women." By Barbara Tchaykovsky. (London: Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C. Price 1d. and 3d. each.)

† "The Great Adventure." By A. Maude Royden. (London: Headley Brothers, Bishopsgate. Price 2d.)

Peace, and whether the whole of her argument is to be accepted or not, there is no one who would not gain immeasurably by reading her beautifully written little pamphlet. She sees with the utmost clearness that a man who goes out to die for his country will save his own soul; but, she adds, will he serve his generation as he might have served it? The thrill of sympathy felt by those who share the popular ideals,

the peacemaker to-day foregoes; nor will he count it a great thing to bear if he is reproached with treachery. For we who seek peace know best how often we have in our own souls made war, and we shall not find the world's judgment on us too harsh. But neither will we now betray what has been too often betrayed, or keep silent on what we believe to be the truth. Truth does not come to men in easy ways, nor will it ever come by those who see a vision and put it by as a thing too fair for the present hour, to be realised some day. It will be realised, but only when those who see it, however dimly, live up to all they see at any cost. It will come by no automatic process of revelation, but by the blood and sweat of those who see it now.

Miss Royden puts forward an alternative course to war which at least deserves the consideration of every thinker.

THE LANGUAGE OF WAR *

We can most heartily recommend this little book to all who want to understand the real meaning of the words and phrases commonly used in discussions about the war and in descriptions of the fighting. What exactly is a "howitzer"? What is "cordite," a "grenade," "turpentine," a "Q.F. gun," and so on? All is here briefly and accurately defined for those who follow the military operations of the European war and like to have a clear and detailed impression of the scenes they read about.

* "War Up to Date: A Vade-Mecum of Modern Methods of Warfare, together with a Naval and Military Dictionary." By Charles E. Pearce. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 1s. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE

"AS WELL AS A BOY"

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—Turning over some recent issues of the *Daily Chronicle*, my eye lit on the following gem (the italics are mine):—

"There is a huge reserve of women, young and energetic, who could take up the work of the younger and less experienced clerks under Government. Quite apart from the specially trained nurses, who have their job—and more—there are thousands of teachers, many of them specialists from the Universities, many more thousands of young women trained in secretarial work and so forth, turned out of their especial job by the fortune of war. On the other hand, there are equally thousands of young men doing ordinary clerical work under Government. We cannot saddle the young woman with war-kit. But she is waiting to be called to the clerical job she can perform as well as a boy."

The war has led to many striking discoveries by men concerning the capabilities of women, but certainly this one of the *Chronicle*, that female University specialists are able to perform the clerical work of boys as well as the boys themselves could do it, and are only waiting to be asked, is easily the most remarkable. One wonders whether the writer of the paragraph found it out all by himself, or in collaboration with the rest of the staff? In either case the *Daily Chronicle* is to be congratulated!—Yours, &c.,

Hawshhead, May 20, 1915.

WAR BABIES

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—May I again trespass upon your space in order to answer your correspondent "Thinker's" letter. That the standard of morality changes with succeeding generations cannot be denied, but this does not alter facts, and one that has been most clearly brought out by history is that a low standard, which I may remind "Thinker" has been tried more than once in the past, has invariably resulted in the degeneration and decay of the nations practising it, and those who have studied Miss Pankhurst's book on this subject will be at no loss to understand the reason for this fact. Should such a grave mistake be made by future generations, as "Thinker" suggests, there is little doubt that history will again repeat itself on this question.

Suffragists, above all other women, should oppose a low standard, because the bitter opposition with which their cause has been treated has always had for its chief motive power this evil (immorality) behind it. I believe that on this—perhaps the most important question with which Suffragists will have to deal when they "come into their own" and obtain political power—women will be sharply divided; but I also believe that the majority will always stand for a higher and purer standard, because woman has a natural instinct making for greater spirituality, and consequently greater purity, than men, and also because they always have and always will be the chief sufferers from any breach of the moral law, and therefore have practical experience of its evil results.—Yours, &c.,

CHARLOTTE E. IRELAND.

May 24, 1915.

THE SOLDIER'S SPHERE

Miss C. C. Cooke writes from Monk's Walk Cottage, Much Marcle:—

Fifty-seven householders of the parish of Much Marcle, in the county of Herefordshire, signed the following petition, which was forwarded to Lord Kitchener on April 14 and acknowledged two days later: "We, the undersigned, beg to draw your attention to the rumours, the truth of which we would have investigated, that the food supplied to the soldiers in camp in England is unsatisfactory. Speaking generally, it would appear that the amount provided for breakfast and dinner is sufficient in quantity, but rendered poor in quality through bad cooking; that for 'tea,' which takes the place of supper, the amount provided is in many cases insufficient in quantity and quality, and has to be supplemented out of the pockets of the men themselves. We wish the food to be as good as it is possible for it to be under the conditions, and would ourselves suggest that capable and competent women be placed in positions of responsibility in the Commissariat Department of the Forces."

The petitioners are curious to know whether there is any connection between their petition and an announcement which appeared in the *Daily Citizen* a week later under the heading: "Women to Teach Soldiers Cooking," inviting women with a practical knowledge of open-air cooking to communicate with the Military Aid Department of the Women's Emergency Corps, stating their nearest military centre.



(With acknowledgments to the "Daily Sketch")

A WOMAN COMMISSIONAIRE

WOMEN LIBERALS

At the annual meetings of the Women's Liberal Federation held last week in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, the connection between women and war was clearly brought out. On the first day, May 19, the meeting recorded its "unalterable adherence to the principle of Women's Suffrage"; and the rest of the very interesting discussions held on the two days might be said to have shown the reason for this unanimity of opinion. The question of war work for women, for instance, produced a good many speeches, culminating in a resolution pointing out the necessity for safeguarding women's labour under the new conditions.

Mrs. Broadley Reid referred to conditions in Scotland, where so much on the land was done by women, and added that she knew of no farms in England where milking, the feeding of the cows, and the cleaning of the byres was done by women. Such work might very well be given to women so that men could be released for active service. So long as the farmers could secure women there was no need for them to cry out for boys to be taken from school at an early age.

Mrs. Runciman also spoke strongly on this subject. "If the country is going to mobilise to the full its industrial resources it cannot afford to leave out the women," she said; "and there are many ways in which women can help."

Liberal Women and Peace

In connection with the Peace Settlement of the future, the meeting adopted Mrs. Stewart Brown's resolution, suggesting that a special council meeting of the Federation should be called on the cessation of hostilities, in order that the views of Liberal women might be ascertained with regard to the principles of the terms of peace.

Cooking for Soldiers

The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this Council is of opinion that the feeding of soldiers in camps and barracks would be more efficiently carried out if the co-operation of women were secured throughout the administration of this branch of military service. It also points out that the practice of serving the last meal to private soldiers at 4.30 is a direct incentive to their seeking further refreshment in public-houses."

Mrs. Alderton (Colchester), who moved this resolution, brought a strong indictment against the authorities for the way in which the soldiers' camp food is cooked, at Colchester and

elsewhere. She told an amusing story of a soldier who was a blacksmith by trade, but became a cook on joining the Army in order to add to his wages. No one was more amazed than his wife to hear of his new trade, and on Christmas Day the meals provided for a regiment of hungry men were prepared by this man. The soldiers, who bravely struggled through the meals, afterwards made a collection for the cook, "because he had tried so hard."

"It isn't the amount eaten in the camps that is costing the country so much," said Mrs. Alderton, "but the amount wasted. There are many women who have volunteered for war service who could cook for messes of 150 or 200 men, and their employment would prevent waste."

So long as the domestic arrangements of the War Office were in the hands of men, Mrs. Alderton said, she saw no chance of improvement.

Child Labour

One of the most important debates was held on the resolution moved by Miss Willis (Tiverton) stating that in the interests of the future of the nation children's education should not be in any way curtailed or impaired at the present crisis, and that if, in the last resort, children were liberated from school for agricultural or other labour, very careful restrictions should be imposed as to the kind of work, hours, and wages.

The resolution was carried by a large majority; but an amendment moved by Mrs. Grayson, urging the Board of Education to withdraw its sanction to the exemption from education of any children under the age of fourteen, was defeated.

Wives of Aliens

A resolution was passed drawing the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory position of British women living in this country who were the wives or widows of aliens, and expressing the opinion that so long as such women remain on British soil they should not by their marriage be entirely deprived of their rights of citizenship.

Mrs. Stewart Brown made a very sympathetic speech in this connection, pointing out that in practice a destitute wife of an enemy had no nationality. British relief funds were not available for her because she was in law German or Austrian. All that she could claim was 8s. a week for herself and 1s. for each child from her local Board of Guardians, which was less than 10s. a week, and 1s. 6d. for each child granted to German women in England through the American Embassy.

Thousands of distressed English women who were the wives of aliens did not even know the nationality of their husbands. All that they knew was that their husbands were "foreigners." To these women neither the Prince of Wales's Fund nor Queen Mary's Work for Women Fund was applicable, and much hardship was the result.

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

8, Adam Street, Strand. Telephone 5150 Regent. Colours: Purple, White, and Orange.

OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on equal terms with men.

Membership Card

The United Suffragists—
(1) Believe that men and women can usefully co-operate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.
(2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.
(3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.
There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability.
Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.
I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Please write clearly.

Address

Fill in the above Form and post it to—

Hon. Sec. United Suffragists, 8, Adam Street, London, W.C.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Offence Against Daughter

The *Yorkshire Telegraph and Star* (May 6) reports case of a piano tuner charged at the West Riding Assizes before Mr. Justice Shearman with an offence against his thirteen-year-old daughter.

Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

White Slavery

The *Morning Advertiser* (April 17) reports case of a carman charged before Mr. Hedderwick at North London Police Court under the White Slave Act with living on the immoral earnings of women and brutally ill-treating them. There was one previous conviction under the Act, and there were four for assaults on women.

Sentence: Six months' hard labour.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Appropriation of £100

The *Times* (May 19) reports case of a company promoter charged at the Central Criminal Court before Judge Rentoul with converting £100 to his own use which had been entrusted to him.

Sentence: Three years' penal servitude.

Stealing

The *Morning Advertiser* (March 24) reports case of a chauffeur charged at the London Sessions before Mr. Robert Wallace, K.C., with breaking into a shop and stealing cloth and overcoats to the value of £4. He had been twice bound over, and had served sentences of six weeks, three weeks, and two years at Borstal.

Sentence: Fifteen months' hard labour.

A PARIS CANTEN

Readers of the article, "How Women Help," in *VOTES FOR WOMEN* (May 14), will be interested to hear that for the benefit of British soldiers passing through Paris on their way either to the front or to England, a new canteen has been opened at the Gare du Nord by the Women's Emergency Corps. It is open day and night for the supply of food and tea and other non-intoxicants, Indian soldiers being specially catered for with boiled eggs and oranges. There are in connection with the Canteen sixty-eight beds for those who have hours to wait for a train, an infirmary ward in charge of a nurse and a doctor, and a rest room where the men can write letters and see the English papers. The Canteen is all the more appreciated now that all places of refreshment in Paris are closed at 8 p.m. Eight members of the W.E.C. run the Canteen, and appeal for gifts of money, food, tobacco, and other comforts, to be sent to 8, York Place, London, W., marked "Canteen."

COMING EVENTS

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union will hold a meeting in Hyde Park (near the Marble Arch) on Sunday, May 30, at 3 p.m.

The same Society will take part in a demonstration in Victoria Park on Sunday, May 30. The meeting will be

at 5 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Duval, and Mr. David Roberts. Chair: Mrs. Davies.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 2, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Mrs. Mustard.

Under the auspices of the United Suffragists Mr. John Scurr will deliver a series of lectures on "The Theory and Practice of Politics in England To-day," at the Suffrage Club, beginning on Friday, June 4, at 3.30 p.m. Admission free. (See page 282.)

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting at the Kingsway Hall, on Tuesday, June 8, at 8 p.m. (See other parts of paper.)

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NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION will hold a meeting in Hyde Park (near the Marble Arch) on Sunday next at 3. "The Red Dragon leads the way!" "Cymru am byth!"

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION will take part in the Demonstration and have a platform in Victoria Park on Sunday, May 30. Members can join the procession at East India Dock Gates at 3.45, and march under the Red Dragon banner. Meeting in park, 5 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Duval, Mr. David Roberts. Chair: Mrs. Davies. Rally Welsh!

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30. Speakers: June 2: Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Mrs. Mustard. Admission free.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy, Quietude, and Refinement, no extras. At the Strand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters; sumptuous bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted; breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d.; en pension 9s.; special terms for long stay; finest English provisions.—Manageress, 4788 Gerrard.

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CHISWICK PARK (station 7 minutes). Board residence for students and workers; home comforts; quiet study, bedrooms; tennis; highly recommended; terms very moderate.—Mrs. Gwynnell, 34, Barrowgate Road, Chiswick.

COMFORTABLE APARTMENTS for Lady; owner's house, nice garden; bath, h. and c.; good cooking; terms moderate; 5 minutes' station, 20 minutes' King's Cross.—H. D., 39, Westbury Road, Bowes Park, N.

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A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a specialty. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt deliveries.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

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LADY in Country Cottage seeks another to help her in all the work; must be good reader, and musical.—Address Page, Brooklands, Fordcombe, near Tunbridge Wells.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC OPERATOR.—Young lady, with West End experience, requires berth; high class work only.—Nettie Howard, 3, Brunswick Square, W.C.

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64-PAGE BOOK about HERBS and HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—Trimmell, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

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